AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) An image processing apparatus, comprising:

an input portion inputting color image data read from a document by a reading portion;

a converter that converts a portion of the color image data into chromaticity data;

a detector detecting whether said input color image data is out of a predetermined color space, wherein the predetermined color space is based on lightness data and the chromaticity data; and

a determining portion determining that said color image data is image noise when said detector detects that said color image data is out of said predetermined color space.

2.   (Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined color space is further determined in accordance with a characteristic of said reading portion.

3.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein, when the color image data detected by said detector to be out of said predetermined color space continues in a sub scanning direction of said reading

portion, said determining portion determines the continuing color image data as image noise.

4.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a corrector correcting the color image data determined by said determining portion as image noise.

5.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reading portion includes a reading portion having a plurality of line sensors arranged in a sub scanning direction at predetermined intervals and respectively corresponding to different colors.

6.   (Original) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reading portion reads the color image data with said reading portion kept stationary and a document moved with respect to said reading portion.

7.   (Original) An image producing apparatus comprising the image processing apparatus according to claim 1.

8.   (Currently Amended) An image processing method, comprising the steps of:

inputting color image data read from a document by a reading portion;

converting a portion of the color image data into chromaticity data;

detecting whether said input color image data is out of a predetermined color space, ~~wherein the predetermined color space is~~ based on lightness data and <u>the</u> chromaticity data; and

when said color image data is detected by said detecting step to be out of said predetermined color space, determining that said color image data is image noise.

9. (Previously Presented) The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined color space is further determined in accordance with a characteristic of said reading portion.

10. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein, when the color image data detected by said detecting step to be out of said predetermined color space continues in a sub scanning direction of said reading portion, said determining step determines the continuing color image data as image noise.

11. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of correcting the color image data determined by said determining step as image noise.

12. (Original) The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said reading portion includes a reading portion having a plurality of line sensors

arranged in a sub scanning direction at predetermined intervals and respectively corresponding to different colors.

13.　(Original) The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said reading portion reads the color image data with said reading portion kept stationary and a document moved with respect to said reading portion.

14.　(Previously Presented) The image processing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the lightness data of the color image data is converted using a threshold table to generate a threshold which is compared to the chromaticity data of the color image data to determine if the image data is out of the predetermined color space.

15.　(Previously Presented) The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein the lightness data of the color image data is converted using a threshold table to generate a threshold which is compared to the chromaticity data of the color image data to determine if the image data is out of the predetermined color space.